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Report of the Human Rights Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions (A/66/586), which was submitted in accordance with the procedure approved in part V of General Assembly resolution 63/263. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The total requirements arising from the 63 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its three regular and three special sessions amount to $10,573,700 for 2010-2011 and $13,261,800 for 2012-2013 (ibid., para. 5). The Secretary-General proposes to accommodate the additional requirements for 2010-2011 from within the existing appropriation as reported in the second performance report for that biennium, and to consider the additional requirements for 2012-2013 in the context of the contingency fund. A total of six posts and a number of general temporary assistance positions are requested for 2012-2013 (see paras. 4-10 below and annex to the present report). The annex to the report of the Secretary-General provides a summary, by each resolution and decision, of the requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General will accommodate the

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additional requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 from within the resources appropriated for that biennium.

3. For the biennium 2012-2013, the Advisory Committee notes that, in a number of instances, the additional resource requirements are relatively small amounts for activities of a shorter duration, such as the amount of $70,400 related to resolution 18/3. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that, before resorting to the contingency fund, the first option should be to explore if these amounts could be absorbed from within the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013.**

4. Two posts (1 P-3 and 1 General Service) are requested, in relation to resolution 16/21 on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council, to assist the Consultative Group in the selection and appointment process of special procedures mandate holders (ibid., paras. 45-53). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mandate holders, such as special rapporteurs or members of a working group, had increased from 53 in 2007 to the current 69. The Committee also notes from the report of the Secretary-General that, at the time of consideration by the General Assembly of Council resolution 5/1, one proposed P-3 post had not been approved by the Assembly. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the increased requirement is related to functions that are of a more administrative rather than substantive and technical nature. The Committee therefore recommends approval of the establishment of the General Service post and recommends against the P-3 post.**

5. Four posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service) in relation to resolution 17/4 are proposed to assist the newly established Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and the Forum on Business and Human Rights under the guidance of the Working Group (ibid., para. 87). In addition, two general temporary assistance positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service), each for six months, are also proposed. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the workload does not merit all of the posts and positions requested. It therefore recommends approval of one P-4, one P-2 and one General Service posts and one General Service general temporary assistance position, and recommends against the establishment of one P-3 post and one P-3 general temporary assistance position.**

6. The Advisory Committee notes the requests in the report of the Secretary-General for various positions under general temporary assistance. It sought clarification as to how much funding for general temporary assistance positions was being requested and what the respective functions would be. The Committee was informed that for the biennium 2012-2013 additional requirements in the amount of $3,720,000 were being requested under general temporary assistance arising from resolutions adopted at the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth regular sessions and the seventeenth special session of the Human Rights Council. A list of all general temporary assistance positions proposed for 2012-2013, with their levels, duration of service and functions, as provided to the Advisory Committee, is provided in the annex to the present report.

7. In its decision 17/118, the Council decided to establish an Office of the President, within existing resources, to support the President and to enhance efficiency and institutional memory in this regard (ibid., para. 130). The Secretary-General indicates in his report that it could be assumed that three staff members would be recruited at the P-4, P-3 and P-2/1 levels, respectively, under general

temporary assistance, based on the composition and tasks of the Office as described in paragraph 2 of decision 17/118 (ibid., para. 131). The additional requirements related to the proposed three positions would amount to $989,300, under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (ibid., para. 134). The Advisory Committee notes that in the same decision the Council decided to provide the President with the support of a Public Information Officer, through an existing position from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that OHCHR functioned as the secretariat for the Council and provided comprehensive technical and substantive support to the President, the Bureau and the Council as a whole. However, such support did not extend to personal assistance functions relating to the scheduling and handling of bilateral meetings of the President. Since the inception of the Council, all Presidents (elected in June for a one-year term) had been supported by staff from their own permanent missions, supplemented by one or two personnel provided through financial support by donor Governments on an ad hoc basis. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of providing adequate support to the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council. While noting the reassignment of Public Information Officer (P-3) to the Office of the President, the Committee is of the view that further efforts should be made to utilize capacity existing within OHCHR to provide the institutional memory called for in decision 17/118. Accordingly, the Committee recommends approval of the one P-4 and one P-2 positions proposed under general temporary assistance and recommends against the new position at the P-3 level. The Committee considers that the new staffing arrangement should be sufficient to ensure support to the President of the Council as prescribed in decision 17/118, and lead to enhanced efficiency.**

9. The additional requirements resulting from resolution 16/16 on enforced or involuntary disappearances are requested to assist the Working Group in processing a backlog of more than 400 cases (ibid., paras. 40 and 41). The total additional requirements of $351,600 for 2012-2013 include: (a) one P-3 position for 12 months annually to respond to new cases and to manage existing cases; and (b) one P-3 position for two months per year to provide assistance to the Working Group in clearing the backlog. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the pending cases had increased to 650 as at 8 December 2011. **While the Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed resource requirements under general temporary assistance, it expects that with the two proposed P-3 positions to support the Working Group, the backlog of pending cases will be cleared as quickly as possible. The Committee also emphasizes that it considers these positions to be of limited duration and therefore does not expect their retention beyond the clearance of the backlog.**

10. Three general temporary assistance positions are requested in relation to resolution 18/6 on promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including one P-3 (24 months), one P-3 (12 months) and one General Service (12 months). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the functions envisaged should be carried out by one staff member at the P-3 level (24 months) and one General Service staff member (12 months). The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed resources for the P-3 position (12 months).**

11. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are contained in paragraphs 211 and 212 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 3 to 5, 8 and 10 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General.**

Annex

New requirements for general temporary assistance in 2012-2013 arising from Human Rights Council resolutions of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and the seventeenth special session

Resolution/decision		*Amount ($US)*	*Months*	*Level*	*Functions*
16/9	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	165 800	12	P-3	Support to Special Rapporteur, including facilitation and participation in country visits, preparation of briefing notes and press statements, as well as preparation of the report to the Human Rights Council
16/16	Enforced or involuntary disappearances	331 600	24	P-3	Review of backlogged and new cases submitted to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for persons reported as disappeared, including documentation and verification of information, follow-up with Governments and other involved parties, and preparation of document files for review by the Working Group
17/4	Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	149 800	6	P-3	Organizational and substantive support to the Forum on Business and Human Rights, preparing documentation for the Forum and its summary report, assisting in consultations with all relevant stakeholders and dissemination and follow-up to the recommendations of the Forum
			6	General Service	Administrative and logistical support to the Forum on Business and Human Rights, including preparations for the annual meeting, preparing invitations and organizing travel arrangements, preparation and processing of documentation for the Forum and otherwise supporting the effective functioning of the meetings, including advance preparatory meetings and follow up activities
17/17	Human rights situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	193 600	3	P-5	Extension of services for the secretariat Coordinator of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for Libya through the completion of the field work of the Commission and preparation of their final report, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session, in March 2012
			1	P-4	Extension of the Investigative Team Leader for the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012
			1	P-4	Extension of the Legal Adviser for the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012
			1	P-4	Extension of the Human Rights Reporting Officer for the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012
			4	P-3	Extension of the four Human Rights Investigative Officers assisting the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012

Resolution/decision		*Amount (US$)*	*Months*	*Level*	*Functions*
			1	P-2	Extension of the Archiving/Information Management Officer supporting the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012
			2	General Service	Extension of two Administrative/Logistics Assistants supporting the Commission, through the completion of its field work in January 2012
17/21	Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights	165 800	12	P-3	Support to the Independent Expert, including facilitation and participation in country visits, preparation of briefing notes and press statements, as well as with the preparation of the report to the Human Rights Council
17/118	Establishment of the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council	989 900	24	P-4	Temporary contract for the Special Adviser to the President of the Human Rights Council (appointed annually), to serve as the focal point for overall support to the President, directing the work of the Office, reviewing draft statements and assisting the President in all his or her political consultations
			24	P-3	Temporary contract for the Policy Adviser to the President of the Human Rights Council (appointed annually), responsible for organizing and preparing substantive documentation relating to various meetings of the President, advising on legal or procedural matters and drafting statements
			24	P-2	Temporary contract for an Associate Officer to support the President of the Human Rights Council (appointed annually), responsible for organizing and preparing minutes of meetings of the President, handling correspondence and queries, as well as for all administrative matters relating to the Office
18/2	Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights	82 900	6	P-3	Organizational and substantive support to the organization of an expert workshop on preventable maternal mortality, preparing advance documentation/conference room papers, consultation with stakeholders, assisting with arrangements for participants and assisting in the drafting of the technical guidance to be presented to the Human Rights Council
18/5	Human rights and international solidarity	82 800	6	P-3	Organizational and substantive support to the organization of an expert workshop on human rights and international solidarity, researching and preparing advance documentation/conference room papers, consultation with stakeholders, assisting with arrangements for participants and assisting in the drafting of the report to be presented to the Human Rights Council
18/6	Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	617 400	24	P-3	Ongoing full-time support to the Independent Expert, including facilitation and participation in country visits, preparation of briefing notes, press statements, studies and annual reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly, as well as assisting in effective communication between the mandate holder, States and other stakeholders

Resolution/decision		*Amount (SUS)*	*Months*	*Level*	*Functions*
			12	P-3	Six months per year for additional research support to the work of the Independent Expert in preparation for field visits and the annual reports
			12	General Service	Six months per year for administrative and logistical support to the Independent Expert, including the preparation of related travel, formatting and processing of reports, documentation and communications, file maintenance and other related organizational matters
18/7	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth justice reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	617 400	24	P-3	Ongoing full-time support to the Special Rapporteur, including facilitation and participation in country visits, preparation of briefing notes, press statements, studies, annual reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly and assisting in effective communication between the mandate holder, States and other stakeholders in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 18/7
			12	P-3	Six months per year for additional research support to the work of the Special Rapporteur, in preparation for field visits and the annual reports
			12	General Service	Six months per year for administrative and logistical support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, including the preparation of related travel, formatting and processing of reports, documentation and communications, file maintenance and other related organizational matters
S-17/1	Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	323 000	2.5	P-5	Extension of services for the secretariat Coordinator of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for Syria, through the completion of the field work of the Commission and preparation of their final report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session, in March 2012
			2.5	P-4	Extension of the Investigative Team Leader for the Commission, through the completion of its work, including contribution to its final report, in March 2012
			2.5	P-4	Extension of the Legal Adviser for the Commission through the completion of its work, including contribution to its final report, in March 2012
			2.5	P-4	Extension of the Investigation/Liaison Officer for the Commission through the completion of its work, including contribution to its final report, in March 2012
			4.5	P-3	Extension of three Security Officers (1.5 months each) to support the Commission through the completion of its field work in mid-February 2012

Resolution/decision	*Amount (SUS)*	*Months*	*Level*	*Functions*
		1.5	P-3	Extension of the Witness Protection Officer to support the Commission through the completion of its field work in mid-February 2012
		1	P-2	Extension of the Archiving/Information Management Officer to support the Commission through January 2012
		1.5	General Service	Extension of the Logistics Assistant supporting the Commission, through the completion of its field work in mid-February 2012
		2.5	General Service	Extension of Administrative Assistants supporting the Commission through the completion of its work, including preparation of its final report, in March 2012
Total	**3 720 000**			